

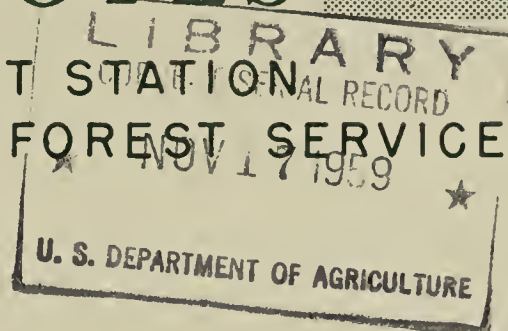
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TECHNICAL NOTES

LAKE STATES FOREST EXPERIMENT STATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE · · FOREST SERVICE



No. 570

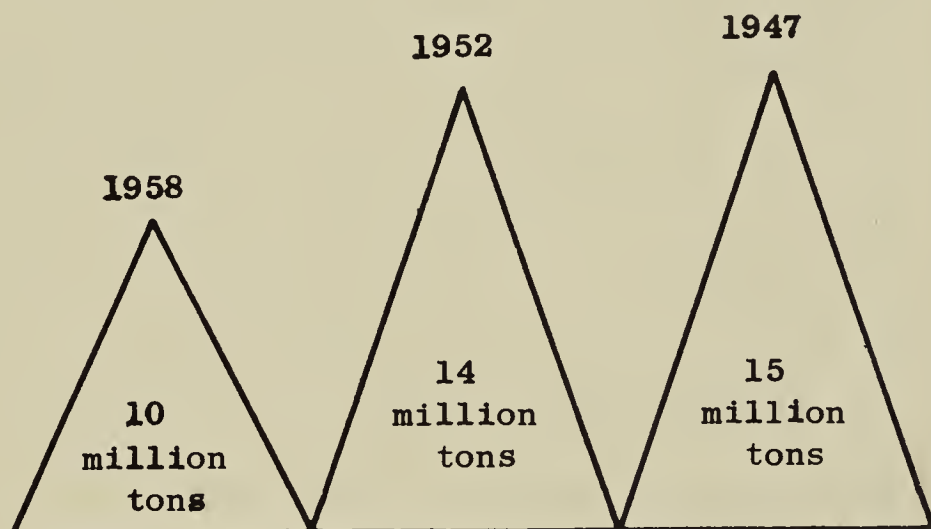
Mine-timber production declines as more substitutes are used and less ore is mined, Lake States, 1958

A canvass of Lake States mining companies was made early in 1959 to determine the quantity of round and split wooden mine materials cut for local mines. In recent years, the use of such timber products has been limited to underground mines. The open pit mines use lumber and other sawn materials but almost no round or split pieces.

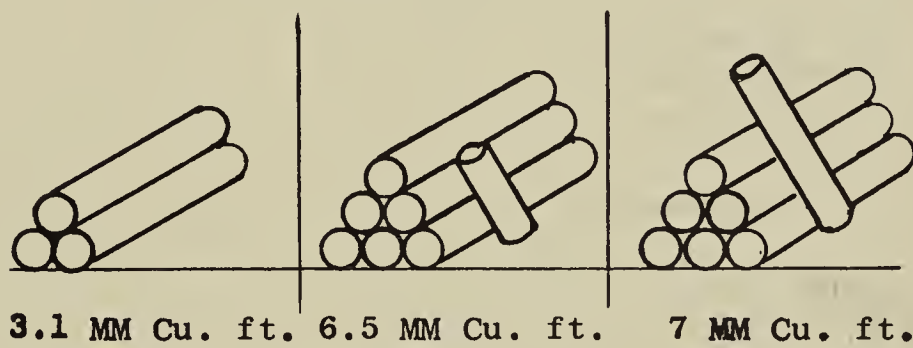
The Station's canvass shows 1958 local timber operators cut approximately 3-1/2 million cubic feet (45,000 cords) of round and split wooden mine products (see table on back of sheet). This is only about half the amount cut in 1952, the last year a similar survey was made. Mine stulls, lagging, poles, and cribbing made up most of the cut in 1958. About 90 percent of the timber products were used by the iron mines and 10 percent by the copper mines.

The quantity of round and split wood used in underground mining is generally proportional to the amount of ore produced. The 1958 decline in ore output resulted in a sharp drop in the production of mine timber products (see chart). The decline in ore production, however, is not the only deterrent to mine-timber production. Over the years substitute materials (steel replacing wood), the use of wood preservatives, and changes in mining methods have lessened the demand for wood. As a result, the amount of round and split wood used per ton of underground ore mined has decreased from 0.47 cubic foot in 1947 to 0.31 cubic foot in 1958.

Iron ore production and round and split wood requirements of under- ground mines, Lake States



Underground ore output



Round and split wood requirements

OCTOBER 1959

ARTHUR G. HORN, Research Forester

Production of round and split wooden mine materials
Lake States - 1958

(Thousand cubic feet)

Destination of materials by species groups	Region	Production by States		
		Minnesota	Wisconsin	Michigan
IRON MINES				
Mine timbers				
Softwoods	464	335	108	21
Hardwoods	403	22	28	353
All species	867	357	136	374
Mine cribbing				
Softwoods	109	11	21	77
Hardwoods	159	-	80	79
All species	268	11	101	156
Mine poles				
Softwoods	320	268	36	16
Hardwoods	70	2	4	64
All species	390	270	40	80
Mine lagging, etc. ^{1/}				
Softwoods	1,214	185	137	892
Hardwoods	332	4	41	287
All species	1,546	189	178	1,179
All products				
Softwoods	2,107	799	302	1,006
Hardwoods	964	28	153	783
All species	3,071	827	455	1,789
COPPER MINES				
All products				
Softwoods	17	-	-	17
Hardwoods	283	-	-	283
All species	300	-	-	300
ALL MINES				
All products				
Softwoods	2,124	799	302	1,023
Hardwoods	1,247	28	153	1,066
All species	3,371	827	455	2,089

^{1/} Stage poles, blasting sticks, and trestle logs.